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# SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC COOPERATION: TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT

Algeria*: draft resolution

## Specific measures in favour of island developing countries

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 45/202 of 21 December 1990 and 47/186 of 22 December 1992 and other relevant resolutions of the General Assembly and of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development,

Recognizing that, in addition to the general problems facing developing countries, many island developing countries experience specific trade and financing-related handicaps arising from their smallness, remoteness, geographical dispersion, vulnerability to natural disasters, the fragility of their ecosystems, constraints on transport and communications, great distances from market centres, a highly limited internal market, lack of natural resources, weak indigenous technological capacity, the acute problem of obtaining fresh water supplies, heavy dependence on imports and small number of commodities, depletion of non-renewable resources, migration, particularly of personnel with high-level skills, shortages of administrative personnel and heavy financial burdens,

Recognizing also that many of these factors occur concurrently in island developing countries, resulting in economic and social vulnerability and dependence, particularly in those countries that are small and/or geographically dispersed,

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* On behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China.

Noting that many island developing countries are least developed countries,

Mindful of the fact that in the 1990s island developing countries, particularly the small island developing countries that have extremely open and volatile economies, are facing an international economic environment that may strongly affect their ability to achieve sustainable development,

Concerned about the adverse effects of climate change and sea-level rise on island developing countries,

Reaffirming the importance of Agenda 21, which was adopted by the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, and the commitments made therein, particularly in chapter 17, section G, relating to the sustainable development of small island developing States, 1/

Stressing the importance of the United Nations Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States which was held in Barbados from 25 April to 6 May 1994 and the Programme of Action adopted by the Conference, 2/

Taking note of the World Conference on Natural Disaster Reduction, held in Yokohama, Japan, from 23 to 27 May 1994 and the Yokohama Strategy for a Safer World, 3/

1. Reaffirms its resolutions 45/202 and 47/186 and other relevant resolutions of the General Assembly and of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, and calls for their immediate, effective implementation;

2. Expresses its appreciation to States, organizations and bodies, within and outside the United Nations system, that have responded to the special needs of island developing countries;

3. Welcomes the Programme of Action adopted at the United Nations Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States; 2/

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1/ Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992 (A/CONF.151/26/Rev.1 (Vol. I and Vol. I/Corr.1, Vol. II, Vol. III and Vol. III/Corr.1)) (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigenda), vol. I: Resolutions adopted by the Conference, resolution 1, annex II.

2/ Report of the United Nations Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, Bridgetown, Barbados, 26 April-6 May 1994 (A/CONF.167/9 and Corr.1 and 2) (United Nations publication, Sales No. 94.I.18), chap. I, resolution I, annex II.

3/ "Report of the World Conference on Natural Disaster Reduction, Yokohama, 23-27 May 1994" (A/CONF.172/9 and Add.1), chap. I, resolution 1, annex I.

4. Takes note with appreciation of the report of the Secretary-General on a development strategy for island developing countries; 4/

5. Welcomes the efforts made by island developing countries to adopt policies that address their specific trade and financing-related problems, including efforts at regional cooperation and integration, and calls upon those countries to continue to pursue, in accordance with their national objectives, policies and priorities, further measures to increase their international competitiveness, render their economies less vulnerable by developing the capacity to respond to shocks due to natural disasters and external economic changes, and promote sustainable development;

6. Appeals to the international community:

(a) To maintain and, where possible, increase the level of concessional financial and technical assistance provided to island developing countries;

(b) To optimize access of island developing countries to concessional financial and technical assistance by taking into account, inter alia, the specific development needs and problems with which those countries must contend;

(c) To consider reviewing the mechanisms of existing procedures used in providing concessional resources to island developing countries, taking into account their situation and development potential;

(d) To ensure that assistance conforms to the national and, as appropriate, regional priorities of island developing countries;

(e) To assist those countries to derive maximum benefits from the agreements of the Uruguay Round, to consider improving trade and/or other existing arrangements for assisting them in redressing possible adverse effects of the Uruguay Round on their external trade and to consider wider adoption of such arrangements;

(f) To continue to ensure that a concerted effort is made to assist island developing countries, at their request, in improving their institutional and administrative capacities and in satisfying their overall needs with regard to the development of human resources;

(g) To provide technical assistance aimed at the development of diversified exports including "niche" goods and services;

(h) To provide support to island developing countries to strengthen their national and regional capabilities in the management, exploitation and surveillance of their exclusive economic zones;

(i) To give high priority to investment and technical assistance projects aimed at improving the quality, efficiency and safety of transport services and infrastructure and the quality and coverage of telecommunications systems;

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4/ A/49/227 and Add.1 and 2.

(i) To provide assistance, where appropriate, to island developing countries to mitigate the consequences of climate change and sea-level rise;

(k) To continue providing assistance, where appropriate to island developing States in their preparedness for response to/and mitigation of natural disasters, bearing in mind their special vulnerability;

7. Invites island developing countries to intensify further their regional and subregional cooperative arrangements and, in particular, to address the problem of high-cost economies, by developing, where appropriate, common services to reduce the high per capita costs of infrastructure and public services and by developing regional transport and communications systems;

8. Urges once again relevant organizations of the United Nations system to take adequate measures to respond positively to the particular needs of island developing countries and continue to report on such measures through the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, as appropriate;

9. Urges the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development to strengthen its role, within its mandate, as the focal point for specific action at the global level in favour of island developing countries in the international economic cooperation context, and to act as a catalyst in this regard, inter alia, by continuing its technical assistance to the island developing countries as regards the implementation of the Final Act on the trade and development prospects of these countries, and organizing and facilitating cross-regional interchange of information and experiences, in full cooperation with regional and subregional organizations, both within and outside the United Nations system, as appropriate;

10. Requests the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, in close cooperation with the Department for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development of the United Nations Secretariat to convene a meeting of governmental experts of island developing countries, donor countries and development and trade related institutions in 1996 in New York to review the implementation of specific trade and financial-related measures being undertaken at the national, subregional and international levels to address the specific problems and needs of island developing countries in those areas;

11. Requests the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at the fifty-first session on the outcome of the follow-up of the meeting referred to in paragraph 10 above.

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